

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (New) Apparatus for connecting a drainage bag to a fistula of a subject, including a connector in the form of an elongate flexible tubular member having an inlet aperture at a proximal end for receiving waste material from the fistula and an outlet aperture at a distal end for engagement with the drainage bag through which waste material travels before entering the drainage bag, and means for applying a force to the connector for pressing the proximal end of the connector into contact with the exterior surface of the subject whereby to connect it to the fistula.

21. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the means for applying a force to the distal end of the connector is a belt or abdominal strap.

22. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the flexible tubular member is resiliently deformable in a longitudinal direction.

23. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the flexible tubular member is ribbed.

24. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus further includes an inlet flange around the inlet aperture.

25. (New) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the inlet flange is resiliently deformable.

26. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus further includes an outlet flange around the outlet aperture.

27. (New) Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the outlet flange is provided with an adhesive layer on at least a portion thereof for adhesive engagement with a drainage bag.

28. (New) Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the outlet flange is provided with formations for complementary inter-engagement with corresponding formations on a drainage bag.

29. (New) Apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the outlet flange is adapted for snap-fit engagement with a drainage bag.

30. (New) Apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the outlet flange is adapted for screw-fit engagement with a drainage bag.

31. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the flexible tubular member is variable in length.

32. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the length of the flexible tubular member may be varied by up to 4 cm in length.

33. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the apparatus further includes a retention member to prevent movement of an intestine of the subject through the connector into the drainage bag.

34. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the connector is formed, at least in part, of a flexible plastics or rubber or foam material.

35. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the connector is formed or provided with, at least in part, with an element or member of porous material adapted to allow passage of gases therethrough but prevent substantial egress of liquid.

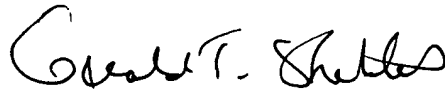
36. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the connector is formed, at least in part, of a hypo-allergenic material.

37. (New) Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the connector is formed, at least in part, of foam.

38. (New) A drainage appliance comprising apparatus according to claim 20 interconnected with a drainage bag.

39. (New) A method of connecting a drainage bag to a fistula of a subject, using a connector in the form of an elongate flexible tubular member having an inlet aperture at a proximal end for receiving waste material from the fistula and an outlet aperture at a distal end for engagement with the drainage bag through which waste material travels before entering the drainage bag, and means for applying a force to the connector for pressing the proximal end of the connector into contact with the exterior surface of the subject whereby to connect it to the fistula, comprising the steps of placing the inlet aperture of the connector against the fistula and applying the said force to the proximal end of the co

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" being more prominent.

Gerald T. Shekleton
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